

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 20, and 24 have been amended. Claim 12 has been cancelled. New claim 31 has been added (support in paragraph [0064]).

Rejections under 35 USC 102

The Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider the arguments presented in the response of January 4, 2010.

In addition, the Applicant has now further amended claim 1 to remove the phrase "wherein the main chain is not cellulose", and to incorporate the subject matter of former claim 12.

Furthermore, the polymer has been defined as having low aqueous solubility (see paragraph [0061] for instance) and high molecular weight (see paragraph [0064] for instance).

Chatterjee et al.

Chatterjee et al. relates to celluloses grafted with ionic side chains; cellulose is hydrophobic. Thus, Chatterjee does not teach that the main chain contains hydrophilic segments. Present claim 1, however, requires that hydrophilic segments be contained in the main chain, and thus, the present invention is distinguished from *Chatterjee et al.*

It is respectfully submitted that as claimed the present invention is distinguished from the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Appln. No. 10/552,714

Response dated: March 31, 2010

Reply to Office Action of January 15, 2010

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and credit any over payments, to Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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